happening. But, yet, again, I emphasise, Sir, we are seized of the fact that we need to do a little more, and we are doing our best in this. The result has been the setting up of the Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Higher Education. The purpose of this Committee is to bring the research that is happening in the CSIR closer to the universities. It is unfortunate that the research is not happening in our universities, that we have seen this link weakening. Sir, we are trying to look at various aspects and trying to ensure and see how we could actually bring research happening in the CSIR into our universities, which, we think, will help us in the future.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 143.....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, we have asked as many times, but we are not given the chance .... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Three supplementaries, please .....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, please give us a chance to put a supplementary.

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Sir, Q. No. 143 ..... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: There shall be a discussion on this subject. We have already agreed .... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Sir, I wanted to know for what purpose it is being given. .... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt her. Please go ahead .....*(Interruptions)*...

डा0 मुरली मनोहर जोशी : सभापति महोदय ...(**व्यवधान**)... **क्या इस पर डिस्कशन के लिए कोई** तारीख तय हुई है ? ...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will work that out in the Business Advisory Committee

Scheme for adolescent girls

* 143. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to launch a new Central scheme for adolescent girls, to provide a package of compulsory services to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this scheme is propose to be implemented through Anganwadi centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, *inter alia* indicating its action plan to implement this project in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) It is proposed to merge the two existing schemes, the Kishori Shakti Yojana and the Nutrition Programme for Adolescent girls presently under implementation by the Ministry, and formulate a comprehensive scheme for adolescent girls in the country. The details of the Scheme are being worked out.

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Sir, as the hon. Minister is undoutedly aware, India has a very high level of malnutrition among children, perhaps, of the order of about 46 per cent. But, what is truly shocking, Sir, is that for adolescent girls, it has been reported that the number may be as high as 80 per cent. Therefore, there is an urgency to have a concerted focus on this. I would like the hon. Minister to inform us what is the time-frame she envisages in combining these schemes and to have a focused effort.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, there are two schemes that exist. First, I want to congratulate the hon. Member for having recognised the key need to feed our adolescent children. It is malnutrition, child marriages, inaccessibility to food securities that often cause high infant and maternal mortality rates. It is something which we have been seized with in this country for the past so many years. It is also of absolute urgency and imperative for us to be able to address this issue. The two schemes that were existing have been merged today, Sir. We have ordered—even from the PMO —that we have to expand the Kishori Shakti Yojana and the Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls, and we will be doing this. We saw the limitations. We examined the limitations in the existing schemes, and the merger will be able to see a universalisation of this scheme. We will be able to give it the thrust and the focus that is required for the future.

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Sir, the newspapers have reported that the scheme envisages raising the budget for each block from Rs. 1.1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh and also to make most of the provisions compulsory rather than optional. I would like the hon. Minister to comment on this, and also to confirm whether she would be willing to consider that for tribal districts, for example, in districts, like the KBK areas of my State in Orissa, whether special extra allowances could be made becuase they suffer additionally due to lack of infrastructure and a greater level of poverty.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, we have set up a Core Group to be able to examine all the parameters and the requirements in this envisioned merger, and the draft scheme has already been finalised by the Core Group. We will examine it, and if need be, we will adress the issue because tribal welfare is something that we are all particularly sensitive to.

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Sir, nearly half of the children in India suffer from malnutrition; one in every three malnourished children in the world lives in India. The National Programme for Adolescent Girls launched by the Planning Commission in 2002-03 is being implemented in only 51 districts. I would like to know from the hon. Minister when this programme will be implemented in the remaining districts.

Sir, the Supreme Court has directed the Central Government and the State Governments to ensure that there is a functional anganwadi in every settlement. But, everybody knows about the functioning of anganwadis and the problems being faced by the anganwadi workers. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the measures the Ministry is going to take in this regard.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I did mention that there are two existing programmes which will be merged and we are looking at universalisation of this programme. We will be taking specific interest and you will see a remarkable difference as soon as the programme is implemented because we are addressing all the issues.

As for the Anganwadis on demand, as it is called, we are going towards that. We are heading towards a recast ICDS programme which will be available across the country. We are

universalising it. We have relaxed the norms of population, demand, etc. But, having said all of that, you will appreciate that for Anganwadis, we give the money from the Centre and the respective State Governments are to take ownership and the implementation of these Anganwadis must be looked at that. A lot of Anganwadi teachers are being used by the State Governments for various implementation programmes of different schemes whereby they do not even pay them the extra money. I am very happy to remind the House that we have given a 50 per cent hike in salaries—not salaries, but honorariums—for the Anganwadi teachers and helpers and it is the single biggest intervention. I think, the State Governments should now take on the responsibility to at least match the Central grant that we are giving. Also, they should adhere to the norms that if you take extra work, you must give extra pay. Teachers should be left to do the work they are supposed to do in Anganwadis and they should not be engaged in census, survey and other programmes which the State Governments implement.

I would appreciate if the hon. Members would also look into that in their respective areas and bring pressure on the State Governments so that they address the issues of Anganwadis. We are bringing out a newly recast ICDS programme which, I am sure, will show a far better swift response system than what is existing now.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, malnutrition among girl children is a national hazard. We should bring it on top of the agenda of the country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Centre has convened or is planning to convene a meeting of all the State Governments, because they need to be involved. This programme will not succeed without the help of the State Governments. What is the progress made in that direction?

Secondly, what is the time-frame? Thirdly, this NPAG is now applicable only to 51 districts of the country. Are you planning, under the merged scheme, to have universal application of it throughout the country?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, you will appreciate that our interest is the whole country because adolescent girls across the country are our collective responsibility. These are the young mothers of the future and these are the informed group and they need to be able to take informed decision for the future, whether it is immunisation of their own children, methods of cooking, methods of accessing nutritional support, etc. All of these will be looked into and there is no doubt about that.

As regards the other issue which Venkaiah Naidu has drawn attention to, there is no dispute and there is no doubt about it and we are looking at the whole scheme holistically. We will be able to implement it in the very near future, very near future.

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि : धन्यवाद , सभापति महोदय । माननीय मंत्री महोदया, बहुत बुद्धिमान और बहुत सक्रिय है । आगंनवाडी-कर्मियों के बारे में बताते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि इन्हें सेलरी दी जाती है, लेकिन जहां तक मेरी जानकारी है आंगनवाडी वर्कर्स, आंगनवाडी सहायिकाओं को ऑनरेरियस या मानदेय दिया जाता है । क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदया बताएंगी कि केन्द्र सरकार राज्यों को आंगनवाडी केन्द्रों के मामले में जो पैसा देती है, उनमें से कौन-कौन से राज्य defaulters हैं? साथ ही क्या वह निर्दिष्ट रूप से बताएंगी कि आंगनवाडी कर्मियों, आंगनवाडी सहायिकाओं को सरकारी कर्मचारी मामने के संबंध में घोषणा की जाएगी?

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी : सर, मैंने सेलरी गल्ती से कहा था और जब –के-जब correct भी कर दिया कि सेलरी नहीं, इसको ऑनरेरियम या मानदेय माना जाता है । उसमें कोई दो राय नहीं है कि मानदेय को हमने केन्द्र सरकार से बढाया

है और मैं चाहती हूं कि राज्य सरकारें अपनी-अपनी जिम्मेदारी उठाएं और जो काम वे आंगनवाडी से हटकर उनसे ले रही हैं, उसका पैसा उनको देना चाहिए। यह मेरा प्रयास है कि वह हम उनसे दिलाएं।

श्री सभापति : क्वैश्चन नंबर 144 प्लीज।

श्री रूद्रनारायण पाणि : उनको सरकारी कर्मचारी घोषित किया जाएगा या नहीं ?

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी : हम ऑनरेरियम लेते हैं तो कर्मचारी कहां से माना जाएगा। सर, इस बारे में सुप्रीम कोर्ट का भी एक ऑर्डर है कि हम इन को कर्मचारी नहीं मान सकते। ...(**व्यवधान**)... **माननीय सदस्य** अपने इलाके में प्रयास कर के आंगनवाडी वर्कर्स को राज्य सरकार से पैसा दिलाएं।

श्री सभापति : क्वैश्चन नंबर 144.

UN report on malnutrition and child mortality

*144. SHR1MAT1 SUPRIYASULE:††
SHRIGIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a UN report released says that malnutrition and child mortality continues to endanger the lives of children in the country and accounts for 50 per cent death of under five children and is also responsible for the low weight among children;

(b) whether, according to report the country has to reach the Millennium Development Goal of 38 by 2015, the average annual rate of reduction in the next nine years has to be about 7.6 per cent;

(c) if so, the other main points mentioned in the UN report; and

(d) the steps being considered for implementation of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MATI RENUKACHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) report titled "Progress for Children", N0.6, December, 2007, under five mortality rate in 2006 was 76 per thousand live births in the country.

The child mortality is not responsible for the low weight among children. Early marriages of girls, teenage pregnancies, poor health of pregnant ladies and malnutrition result in low birth weight of the new boms. Improper and poor breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices, ignorance about nutritional needs of infants and young children and repeated infections further aggravate the situation.

(b) Yes, as per the report, the country has to reach the Millennium Development Goals target of under five mortality rate upto 38 per thousand live births by 2015 and accordingly the average annual rae of reduction has to be 7.6 percent during the period of 2007—2015.

(c) The UNICEF report highlights the country specific Millennium Development Goals (MDG), their targets and the progress made by different countries. It also stresses the need to accelerate the progress in the following areas:

ttThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Supriya Sule.